

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A paper treating unit comprising:

a paper exhausting roller that delivers paper passed from a paper exhausting unit in a paper proceeding direction;

a paper loading table that loads the paper at a paper loading position;

a first paper aligning member that regulates the position of the paper in the paper proceeding ~~direction~~ direction;

a first sliding unit for sliding back and forth said first paper aligning member, said first paper aligning member regulating the position of the paper by sliding back and forth in the paper proceeding direction;

a second paper aligning member disposed upstream of the first paper aligning member in the paper proceeding direction to regulate the position of the paper in the paper proceeding direction;

a third paper aligning member disposed along the paper proceeding direction to regulate the position of the paper in a width direction perpendicular to the paper proceeding ~~direction~~ direction;

a second sliding unit for sliding back and forth said third paper aligning member, said third paper aligning member regulating the position of the paper by sliding back and forth in the width direction perpendicular to the paper proceeding direction; and

a position detecting unit that detects the position of the first paper aligning member, the second paper aligning member and the third paper aligning ~~member~~; member.

wherein the first paper aligning member and the third paper aligning member are disposed independently of the paper loading table.

2. (Original) The paper treating unit according to claim 1,

wherein the first paper aligning member and the third paper aligning member are disposed above the paper loading table.

3. (Original) The paper treating unit according to claim 1, further comprising:

an upper face detecting unit that detects the uppermost position of the paper loaded on the paper loading table; and

a table driving mechanism that moves up or down the paper loading table depending on the uppermost position of the paper detected by the upper face detecting unit.

4. (Currently Amended) The paper treating unit according to claim 1,

~~wherein the third paper aligning member includes a pair of~~ further comprising another
third paper aligning member ~~members~~ member ~~separated from each other~~ the third paper aligning
member ~~in the perpendicular direction~~ width direction perpendicular to the paper proceeding
direction to regulate the position of the paper in the ~~perpendicular~~ width direction.

5. (Original) The paper treating unit according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first driving mechanism that drives the first paper aligning member; and
a second driving mechanism that drives the third paper aligning member
independently of the first driving mechanism.

6. (Currently Amended) The paper treating unit according to claim 1,
wherein the first paper aligning member and the third paper aligning member are slid by the first and second sliding units, respectively, once back and forth every time the paper is exhausted from the paper exhausting unit.

7. (Currently Amended) The paper treating unit according to claim 4, wherein said third paper aligning member and said another third paper aligning member form a pair of third paper aligning members,

wherein the paper exhausting roller delivers the paper in the paper proceeding direction while delivering the paper in the perpendicular width direction; and

one of the pair of third paper aligning members is stopped and the other is slid back and forth in the perpendicular width direction.

8. (Currently Amended) The paper treating unit according to claim 1,
wherein the first paper aligning member is slid back and forth forth, by said first sliding unit, between a first standby position apart separated, by a predetermined distance in the paper proceeding direction direction, from the paper loading position and a position around an end of the paper loading position, immediately after the paper is loaded on the paper loading table.

9. (Original) The paper treating unit according to claim 8,
wherein the first paper aligning member is slid back and forth by a distance of 3mm or less from the first standby position.

10. (Currently Amended) The paper treating unit according to claim 1,
wherein the third paper aligning member is slid back and forth forth, by said second sliding unit, between a second standby position apart separated, by a predetermined distance in the perpendicular direction direction, from the paper loading position and a position around an end of the paper loading position, immediately after the paper is loaded on the paper loading table.
11. (Original) The paper treating unit according to claim 1, further comprising:
an upper unit disposed above the paper loading table;
wherein the upper unit is provided with the first paper aligning member, the third paper aligning member, the first driving mechanism and the second driving mechanism.
12. (Currently Amended) The paper treating unit according to claim 1,
wherein the paper exhausting unit is provided adapted for use with an image forming apparatus; and
the paper treating unit is disposed adjacent to the image forming apparatus.
13. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus system, comprising:
an image forming apparatus that forms an image on paper; and
a paper treating unit;
wherein the paper treating unit includes:
a paper exhausting roller that delivers the paper passed from the image forming apparatus in a paper proceeding direction;
a paper loading table for loading the paper at a paper loading position;

a first paper aligning member that regulates the position of the paper in the paper proceeding ~~direction~~ direction;

a first sliding unit for sliding back and forth said first paper aligning member, said first paper aligning member regulating the position of the paper by sliding back and forth in the paper proceeding direction;

a second paper aligning member disposed upstream of the first paper aligning member in the paper proceeding direction to regulate the position of the paper in the paper proceeding direction;

a third paper aligning member disposed along the paper proceeding direction to regulate the position of the paper in a width direction perpendicular to the paper proceeding ~~direction~~ direction;

a second sliding unit for sliding back and forth said third paper aligning member, said third paper aligning member regulating the position of the paper by sliding back and forth in the width direction perpendicular to the paper proceeding direction; and

a position detecting unit that detects the position of the first paper aligning member, the second paper aligning member and the third paper aligning member; and

the first paper aligning member and the third paper aligning member are disposed independently of the paper loading table.

Please add the following new claim:

14. (New) A paper treating unit comprising:

a paper exhausting roller that delivers paper passed from a paper exhausting unit in a paper proceeding direction;

a paper loading table that loads the paper at a paper loading position;

first regulating means for regulating the position of the paper in the paper proceeding direction;

first sliding means for sliding back and forth said first regulating means, said first regulating means regulating the position of the paper by sliding back and forth in the paper proceeding direction;

second regulating means, disposed upstream of the first regulating means in the paper proceeding direction, for regulating the position of the paper in the paper proceeding direction;

third regulating means, disposed along the paper proceeding direction, for regulating the position of the paper in a width direction perpendicular to the paper proceeding direction;

second sliding means for sliding back and forth said third regulating means, said third regulating means regulating the position of the paper by sliding back and forth in the width direction perpendicular to the paper proceeding direction; and

position detecting means for detecting the position of the first regulating means, the second regulating means and the third regulating means,

wherein the first regulating means and the third regulating means are disposed independently of the paper loading table.